IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS HOUSTON DIVISION

| QT TRADING, L.P. | § | |
|--|---|---------------------|
| Plaintiff, | § | |
| | § | |
| v. | § | C.A. NO |
| | § | Admiralty Rule 9(h) |
| M/V STAR LILY , | § | |
| her engines, tackle, boilers, etc. in rem, | § | |
| | § | |
| v. | § | |
| | § | |
| FOUR LAND PANAMA S.A., | § | |
| KANSAI STEAMSHIP CO., LTD., | § | |
| ABOITIZ JEBSEN CO., INC., | § | |
| DOUN KISEN KK CO., LTD., | § | |
| GULF STREAM MARINE, INC., | § | |
| WESTERN BULK CARRIERS AS, | § | |
| WESTERN BULK CARRIERS GmbH., | § | |
| and WESTERN BULK CARRIERS KS | § | |
| Defendants. | § | |

<u>COMPLAINT</u>

1. Plaintiff, QT Trading, L.P. ("QT") by its attorneys, Hill Rivkins LLP, complaining of the M/V Star Lily, *in rem*. Four Land Panama S.A. ("FLPS"), Doun Kisen KK Co., Ltd. ("DKKK"), Kansai Steamship Co., Ltd. ("KSCL"), Aboitiz Jebsen Co., Ltd., ("AJCL") Western Bulk Carriers KS, ("WBCKS"), Gulf Stream Marine, Inc. ("GSMI"), Western Bulk Carriers AS ("WBCAS"), and Western Bulk Carriers GmbH ("Western Bulk") (collectively "Defendants"), alleges upon information and belief:

A.

2. This is an admiralty or maritime claim within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 1333 and Rule 9(h) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, or is brought pursuant to 9 U.S.C.A. § 8, for preservation of *in rem* security for arbitration.

B.

3. At and during all the times hereinafter mentioned, QT was the consignee and owner of the cargo in question and brings this action on its own behalf and on behalf of all who may become interested in the cargo. QT had and now has the legal status and principal office and place of business stated in Schedule A attached.

C.

4. At and during all the times hereinafter mentioned, FLPS, DKKK, KSCL, AJCL, WBCKS, WBCAS, and Western Bulk had and now have the legal status and offices and places of business stated in Schedule A. They were, and now are, engaged in business as common carriers of merchandise by water for hire, and owned, operated, managed, chartered and controlled the above-named vessel which now is, or will be, within the jurisdiction of this Court, or another U.S. court of competent jurisdiction, during the pendency of this action. Plaintiff requests that the court permit later service of the *in rem* aspect of this case, awaiting this foreign vessel's return to the United States for service of *in rem* process.

D.

5. On or about February 15, 2012, at the port of Iskenderun, Turkey, the M/V STAR LILY and defendants FLPS, DKKK, KSCL, AJCL, WBCKS, WBCAS, and Western Bulk received, in good order and condition, the shipment described in Schedule A, which the vessel and defendants FLPS, DKKK, KSCL, AJCL, WBCKS, WBCAS and Western Bulk accepted and agreed to transport for certain consideration to the Port of Houston, Texas.

E.

6. Thereafter, the vessel arrived at the Port of Houston, where the cargo was found short delivered, contaminated by seawater or other aggressive chemical substance, and /or physically

damaged, causing monetary damages to Plaintiff as enumerated herein. On information and belief, the vessel and defendants FLPS, DKKK, KSCL, AJCL, WBCKS, WBCAS, and Western Bulk breached, failed and violated their duties and obligations as common carriers and were otherwise at fault.

F.

- 7. On or about March 31, 2012, at the Port of Houston, there was delivered to defendant, GSMI, the shipment described in Schedule A, which the said defendant received and agreed to discharge, handle and transport for certain consideration at the Port of Houston.
- 8. Defendant GSMI warranted expressly or by implication of law, to plaintiff and/or its benefits, to act carefully, and in a workmanlike manner, in the handling, discharging and transportation of the cargo.
- 9. Thereafter, by its negligent handling, sorting, identifying, discharging and transportation of the cargo at the Port of Houston, said defendant GSMI caused and/or contributed to the damage to, and short delivery of, said shipment, which occurred while the cargo was in the possession of GSMI.

G.

10. Plaintiff further alleges, in the alternative and without waiving the above cause of action, that all defendants were bailees of plaintiff's cargo described in Schedule A. Defendants delivered the cargo described in Schedule A in a damaged condition which did not exist at the time of plaintiff's/bailor's delivery to the bailee as described in Schedule A. Defendants breached their duties and obligations as bailees and were negligent.

H.

11. Plaintiff was the shipper, consignee and/or owner of the shipment and brings this action on its own behalf and, as agent and trustee, on behalf of and for the interest of all parties who

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may be or become interested in the shipment, as their respective interests may ultimately appear, and plaintiff is entitled to maintain this action.

I.

12. Plaintiff has duly performed all duties and obligations on its part to be performed.

J.

13. By reason of the above-stated premises, plaintiff has sustained damages, as nearly as same can now be estimated, no part of which has been paid although duly demanded, in the amount of ONE HUNDRED SIXTEEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SIXTY-TWO AND 82/100 DOLLARS (\$116,662.82) for which Plaintiff demands recovery from all defendants, jointly and severally.

K.

14. All and singular the premises are true and within the admiralty, maritime, and pendent jurisdiction of the United States and of this Honorable Court.

Wherefore, Plaintiff prays:

- 1. That summons in due form of law may issue against defendants;
- 2. That a judgment may be entered in favor of plaintiff against defendants, one or more of them, for the amount of plaintiff's damages together with interest and the costs and disbursements of this action;
- 3. That process in due form of law according to the practice of this court in causes of admiralty or maritime jurisdiction may issue against said the vessel, her engines, etc., and that all persons having or claiming any interest therein be cited to appear and answer under oath all and singular the matters stated, and this court will be pleased to pronounce a judgment in favor of

plaintiff for damages together with interest, costs and disbursements, and the motor vessel may be condemned and sold to pay therefor; and

4. That this court will grant to plaintiff such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

Respectfully submitted

DANA K. MARTIN SDTX I.D. No.: 126

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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF QT TRADING, LP

VERIFICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF HARRIS

Dana K. Martin, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am an attorney and member of the firm of Hill Rivkins LLP, attorneys for Plaintiff. I am over twenty-one (21) years of age and fully competent to make this Verification. I have read the foregoing Complaint and know its contents. The Complaint is true to my knowledge, except as to the matters stated in the Complaint to be based on information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe them to be true.

The source of my information and the grounds for my belief as to those matters stated in the Complaint, to be alleged on information and belief, are documents and records in my files.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, the undersigned authority, this 28th day of March, 2013.

GRACE R. SOLIS otary Public, State of Texas My Commission Expires March 30, 2016

Notary Public, State of Texas

My Commission Expires: 3-30-16

SCHEDULE A

LEGAL STATUS AND PLACE OF BUSINESS OF PARTIES

Plaintiff, QT Trading, LP, was and now is a corporation with an office and place of business at 79 S. Benson Rd., Suite 6, Fairfield, CT 06824

M/V STAR LILY was at all material times a general cargo ship sailing under the Panamanian flag. The vessel was built in 2008, its call sign is 3FRMS, and its gross tonnage is 21,192 tons.

Defendant, Four Land Panama S.A. ("FLPS"), was and now is a foreign corporation, or similar entity, with power to sue and be sued, which regularly does business in Texas and/or the United States as a common carrier of goods, which does not maintain a designated agent on whom service may be made in Texas, and thus may be served through Hague Convention Service, F.R.C.P. 4(k)2, or through the Secretary of State of Texas under the Texas Long-Arm Statute, Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 17.044 et. seq., in care of its home office at:

c/o Doun Kisen K.K. Co., Ltd. 1307-8 Namikata, Namikata-cho, Imabari-shi, Ehime-ken 799-2101 Japan

Defendant, **Kansai Steamship Co., Ltd, ("KSCL")**, was and now is a foreign corporation, or similar entity, with power to sue and be sued, which regularly does business in Texas and/or the United States as a common carrier of goods, which does not maintain a designated agent on whom service may be made in Texas, and thus may be served through Hague Convention Service, F.R.C.P. 4(k)2, or through the Secretary of State of Texas under the Texas Long-Arm Statute, Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 17.044 et. seq., in care of its home office at:

Kobunacho, 5th Floor Building F, B-1 Nihonbashikobuna-cho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo-to, 103-0024 Japan

Defendant, Aboitiz Jebsen Co., Ltd., ("AJCL") was and now is a foreign corporation, or similar entity, with power to sue and be sued, which regularly does business in Texas and/or the United States as a common carrier of goods, which does not maintain a designated agent on whom service may be made in Texas, and thus may be served through Hague Convention Service, F.R.C.P. 4(k)2, or through the Secretary of State of Texas under the Texas Long-Arm Statute, Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 17.044 et. seq., in care of its home office at:

Harbor Center II Building, 2nd Floor, Railroad Street, South Harbor, Port Area 1018 Manila, Phillipines

Defendant, **Doun Kisen KK Co., Ltd. ("DKKK")** was and now is a foreign corporation, or similar entity, with power to sue and be sued, which regularly does business in Texas and/or the United States as a common carrier of goods, which does not maintain a designated agent on

whom service may be made in Texas, and thus may be served through Hague Convention Service, F.R.C.P. 4(k)2, or through the Secretary of State of Texas under the Texas Long-Arm Statute, Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 17.044 et. seq., in care of its home office at:

1307-8 Namikata, Namikata-cho, Imabari-shi, Ehime-ken 799-2101 Japan

Defendant, Gulf Stream Marine, Inc. ("GSMI"), was and now is a Texas corporation with power to sue and be sued, which regularly does business in Texas and/or the United States as a stevedore of goods, which does maintain a designated agent on whom service may be made, and thus may be served through its registered agent for the State of Texas, at:

10,000 Manchester Street, Suite C Houston, Texas 77012-2412

Attn.: Mr. Richard Ragusan (Pres.) Ms. Marlise Skinner (Treas.) or Mr. Robert Jaworski (VP).

Defendant, Western Bulk Carriers KS, ("WBCKS") was and now is a foreign corporation, or similar entity, with power to sue and be sued, which regularly does business in Texas and/or the United States as a common carrier of goods, which does not maintain a designated agent in Texas upon whom service may be made, and thus may be served through Hague Convention Service, F.R.C.P. 4(k)2, or through the Secretary of State of Texas under Texas Long-Arm Statute, Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 17.044 et. seq., in care of its home offices:

Karenslyst Alle 8B P.O. Box 78 Skoyen N-0212 Oslo, Norway

Defendant, Western Bulk Carriers AS ("WBCAS"), was and now is a foreign corporation, or similar entity, with power to sue and be sued, which regularly does business in Texas and/or the United States as a common carrier of goods, which maintains a registered agent in Texas upon whom service may be made, and thus may be served through its registered agent:

Chaffe McCall, LLP (registered agent) 801 Travis Street, Suite 1910 Houston, Texas 77002

Defendant, Western Bulk Carriers GmbH ("Western Bulk"), was and now is a foreign corporation, or similar entity, with power to sue and be sued, which regularly does business in Texas and/or the United States as a common carrier of goods, which does not maintain a designated agent in Texas upon whom service may be made, and thus may be served through Hague Convention Service, F.R.C.P. 4(k)2, or through the Secretary of State of Texas under Texas Long-Arm Statute, Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 17.044 et. seq., in care of its home offices:

Valentinskamp 88 20355 Hamburg, Germany

DESCRIPTION OF SHIPMENT

Vessel: M/V Star Lily

Date of Shipment: February 15, 2012

Port of Shipment: Iskenderun, Turkey

Port of Discharge: Houston, Texas

Shipper: Tosyali Dis Ticaret A.S.

Consignee: QT Trading, L.P.

Description of Shipment: ERW Steel Pipe

Nature of Loss or Damage: Seawater Rust, Contamination, short delivery and/or

physical damage

Amount: \$116,662.82